

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a ~~product feed~~ containing heat-stabilized egg antibodies ~~a protein with a specific binding activity~~, the method comprising the steps of:

~~providing a solid composition comprising an antibody and at least one saccharide compound prepared by mixing an egg white, an egg yolk and containing an antibody produced therein with~~ at least one saccharide compound selected from a monosaccharide, a disaccharide, a polysaccharide, an alkylated monosaccharide, an alkylated disaccharide, an alkylated polysaccharide, a monosaccharide alcohol, or an alkylated monosaccharide alcohol to form an egg liquid suspension, said egg yolk containing an egg antibody produced in response to antigen inoculation; and

spray drying the egg liquid suspension to form an egg powder, ~~wherein the saccharide compound is selected from a monosaccharide, a disaccharide, a polysaccharide, an alkylated monosaccharide, an alkylated disaccharide, an alkylated polysaccharide, a monosaccharide alcohol, and an alkylated monosaccharide alcohol;~~ and

processing the egg powder to provide a feed containing heat-stabilized egg antibodies, said processing step including exposing the solid composition egg powder to [[a]] an antigen-binding-activity-destroying temperature of at least 70°C;

wherein the heat-stabilized egg antibody in the feed produced by said method ~~composition~~ loses less of its antigen-binding activity in comparison to a control ~~an egg yolk~~ antibody provided in a control feed prepared without an egg that is not mixed and dried with said saccharide, the heat-stabilized egg antibody retaining at least 20% of its antigen-binding activity after being exposed to said antigen-binding activity-destroying temperature.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from a monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, a disaccharide made of monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide made of monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the polysaccharide contains linear, unbranched chains.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the saccharide compound is selected from an alkylated monosaccharide of 5 or 6 carbons, an alkylated disaccharide made of alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons, and a polysaccharide made of alkylated monosaccharide residues of 5 or 6 carbons.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the monosaccharide alcohol has 5 or 6 carbons.

29.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the ~~product~~ feed is selected from a human food product, a non-human animal feed product, a human dietary or nutritional supplement, a non-human animal dietary or nutritional supplement, a pharmaceutical product, and a cosmetic product.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the product is an animal feed product.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the animal feed product is a feed pellet.

35. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a ~~product~~ feed obtained by the method of claim 24.